

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION established 1939

Nov/Dec 2003 NEWSLETTER

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Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Holiday Greetings!

Although until just recently we've been enjoying lovely mild weather, so we could actually keep warm while we admire the flaming foliage, now the cold is coming. But neither cold nor holiday prep should keep you from our next meeting, Monday, November 24, 7:30 pm, at the Somerset County Library. Our own Doug Axmann will be our demonstrator. Many of you are familiar with his beautifully colored and composed oils and acrylics, but Doug is also proficient in airbrush, watercolor, and more. This award winner also teaches at the Joe Kubert School in Dover and has more than enough experience to "wow" you, come the 24th. Kathy Blair and Mary Ann Vaccaro will be providing refreshments, and we thank you for this!

Speaking of Doug, if you have an "owe" on your mailing label, you've not yet paid your dues. You can mail a check made out to RVAA to Doug Axmann, our Membership Chairman, 16 Schoolhouse Lane, Somerville, 08876. \$27. Individual, \$33. Family, and \$15. Student (through high school).

Again, thanks to Mary Creasy, RVAA has a superlative show hanging at Children's Specialized Hospital, on New Providence Road, in Mountainside. Rita Gorky and Judy Hummer helped Mary at receiving, and RVAA thanks all three women for their work. Those RVAA members in this show are of course, Mary, Rita, and Judy, as well as Doug Axmann, Lynne Bigge, Gay Billich, Eleanor DeMott, Barbara Fiorentino, Sandra Ganz, Diana Patton, Christiane Silla, and Rosemary Zangara. The show is up until Saturday, November 29th, pick-up being from 10-11 on that day.

CELEBRATE! It's our big HOLIDAY DINNER PLUS. Our annual get-together, make merry together time. Once again Nona Rutter is putting it all together. Because some members wanted a change of venue, Nona went to several places; unfortunately, once tax and gratuities were added in, quoted prices ran from \$37 up to \$50 per person, so for this year at least, we are sticking with McCarthy's--and Nona will gladly research your suggestions for next year. But this year--MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th is THE NIGHT and McCarthy's, Bridgewater is the place. \$28. is the price; a check made out to RVAA, may be mailed to Nona Rutter, 110 Washington Corner Road, Bernardsville, 07924, by December 5th, ensuring you a place. As usual, cocktails (cash bar) at 6:30 and dinner at 7. This means your humongous and delicious salad bar first, and your choice of 4 entrees, your dessert, and all gratuities. We'll have our traditional White Elephant gift exchange. So please gift wrap that extra white elephant you have. We'll have some holiday readings,

stories, poems, and if you wish to share one, please let Nona know ahead by phoning her at 908/766-4962. GUESTS ARE WELCOME. Do come! And RVAA thanks you, Nona, for arranging it all. Dinner form is included at end of the NEWSLETTER to mail in with your check.

Can you believe our annual Holiday Show & Sale at the Somerset County Library is upon us?! Well, it is. The show "rules" and a form to participate is enclosed in this NEWSLETTER. You'll want to SIGN UP SOON, as your space slot is dependent on when the Show Chair (me) receives your form. If you've never done this show before (or any show), you'll want to join us. Mary Creasy has kindly offered to help on hanging night, 12/4. "Show sitting" is required; we're quite fond of impulse buyers and want to be there to help them buy. But you can kibbutz with the public, paint, do holiday cards, whatever, while you sit. It's fun, and can be profitable, and the library only asks 10% of the selling price in return. The fee is a \$5. check made out to RVAA. Please keep in mind that, generally, lesser priced works sell more often. There is a slight chance that we may get a judge, and then one of your works can be included for judging--if you'd like to be the judge show chair, please phone President Linda Arnold at 908/647-3610. If we do get a chairperson, and a judge, awards will be given out at our Holiday Dinner.

ARTS CONFERENCE 2003--an all-day arts conference for arts organizations and individual artists of all arts disciplines statewide, will be held November 17th, from 8:30 am--4:30 pm at the Somerset Hills Hotel, 200 Liberty Corner Road, Warren. Registration is \$50. (and must be done before the conference). Please call Pat McGarry at 908/231-7110.

The NJ Chapter of the American Artists Professional League, Inc. will conduct their Open Juried Exhibition of Representational Art 2004 at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn. \$3,000 in awards will be presented, including a \$1,000. Best in Show. Awards Judge is M. Stephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief of AMERICAN ARTIST and WATERCOLOR magazines. Artwork in all media completed within the past two years may be entered and all entries will be juried. Pre-registration is by Feb.4th. Prospectus will be available in December by sending a #10 SASE to Burton Longenbach, 1 Winters Court, Clark, NJ 07066. More info? Phone 732/382-5814.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Jersey City Museum, founded in 1901, and recently relocated to a beautifully renovated 1920s warehouse on Montgomery Street, the Museum offers six major exhibitions a year in eight galleries; jazz concerts, film screenings, and theatrical productions, as well as workshops and receptions. If you're interested in a membership form, you may phone 201/413-0303, or go online at [info@jerseycitymuseum.org](mailto:info@jerseycitymuseum.org).

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

ELSA HERRMAN received the Joan Day Memorial Award in the Tewksbury Historical Society's annual show. She also won a first place in watercolors at the Senior Citizen Show in Ocean County, and a Merit Award in the State Show. At present Elsa is participating in a retrospective show at Gallery I, Main, in High Bridge, and a small collection of her work is hanging in The Main Avenue Galleria in Ocean Grove.

DIANA PATTON had work accepted in the juried Mountain Art Show and her students are exhibiting in the Circular Gallery and in the display cases of the Somerset County Library until December 3rd. Those RVAA members in the show are MARILYN CHAPMAN, MATT DZIEDZIC, BILL GILBERT, FRANCES LOUISE MARELL, and SHIRLEY ODWARKA.

DEBBIE TINTLE was given the Award of Excellence for her painting "Moose" in the Essex Watercolor Club's Members' Exhibit in the Atrium Gallery of the Morris County Administration building. This show runs until January 24th and includes two paintings by each exhibiting member.

That's it for now, until the January issue. Remember the Holiday Dinner and the Holiday Show forms. Do mail me your news; I'll save it for January. Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Hannukah! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!